

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01449 181123Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
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O 181000Z MAR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7285  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 1449

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR PORTER FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO,SA, US  
SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE FUNDING

REF: STATE 065708

1. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH EFFORTS IN REFTEL TO MOVE ON TO NEXT STEP IN HAWK FUNDING ISSUE. OBVIOUSLY THESE STEPS OVERTAKE ANY CURRENT NEED FOR STIMULATING ANY EARLY MEETING BETWEEN FAHD AND HUSSEIN.

2. ON QUESTION OF WHICH APPROACH TO MAKE FIRST, MY REACTION IN MAIN PREDICATED ON NEED TO HAVE SOME SORT OF JOINT US-SAUDI POSITION FOR MEETINGS WITH KING IN WASHINGTON MARCH 30-31. AS A RESULT, I THINK APPROACHES TO BOTH FAHD AND HUSSEIN SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY ADVANTAGE, AS SEEN FROM HERE, IN TRYING TO COORDINATE THEM, OR TO MAKE ONE NECESSARILY BEFORE THE OTHER.

3. KING ARRIVES BACK ABOUT NOON TODAY (MARCH 18). I EXPECT THAT I WILL BE SEEING HIM OVER NEXT TWO DAYS BEFORE I RETURN TO WASHINGTON. AT THAT TIME HE WILL ASK ME FOR SOME SORT OF UPDATE ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED ON HAWK, I BELIEVE THEN I SHOULD TELL HIM WHAT YOU HAVE OUTLINED IN PARA 14 -- THAT ON BASIS OF HIS EARLIER REQUEST (BEFORE HE WROTE FAHD THAT HAWK WAS "TERMINATED")

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AND ALSO ON BASIS OF MY RECOMMENDATION TO WASHINGTON THAT WE

CONSULT WITH SAUDIS TO SEE WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND (AND ABOUT WHICH HE IS AWARE) WE HAVE DONE FOLLOWING: (A) WE HAVE PREVAILED ON SAUDIS TO HOLD OFF FORMALIZING \$300M CEILING; (B) WE ARE TRYING TO GET THEM TO GO ABOVE THAT FIGURE; (C) WE ARE DOING THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF A STAGED APPROACH TO THE FUNDING FOR THE FULL SYSTEM; (D) IN THAT CONTECT WE ARE DESCRIBING TO THEM THE MILITARY DRAWBACKS AND DIFFICULTIES OF PACKAGES WHICH MIGHT BE BOUGHT WITH FUNDING AT LEVELS BELOW WHAT WE HAVE PASSED ON TO JORDAN (AND THROUGH JORDAN TO SAUDI ARABIA) IN OUR ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE LETTERS. IF HE ASKS WHETHER WE ARE CONSIDERING PACKAGES AT LESS THAN THE 14 HAWK BATTERIES, I WOULD REPLY THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF SECURING FULL FUNDING FOR THE 14 BATTERIES IN STAGES, WE ARE LOOKING AT ILLUSTRATIVE OPTIONS FOR FUNDING FIRST STAGE AT LESS THAN THE FULL PRICE EARLIER QUOTED TO THE SAUDIS. THUS SOME OF STAGE ONE PACKAGES ARE AOVLUFUVOKMAY WELL END UP COSTING MORE THAN THE FULL SYSTEM.

WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBLITY THAT FUNDING FOR STAGES BEYOND THE FIRST COULD INVOLVE CONTRIBUTORS OTHER THAN THE SAUDIS, INCLUDING THE US OF OUTYEAR US FMS CREDIT GUARANTEED BY OTHER DONORS SUCH AS THE SAUDIS. ABOVE SHOULD HELP TO ALLAY ANY CONCERNS GOJ MIGHT HAVE IF THEY HEAR OF OUR APPROACH FROM SAUDIS. I REALIZE BILL PORTER WILL HAVE TO PRESENT PROBLEM TO SAUDIS AS A HALF EMPTY GLASS, WHILE I PRESENT IT HERE AS A GLASS HALF FULL, NEVERTHELESS I THINK IT IS WORTH DOING.

4. WE MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON REFTTEL BY SEPARATE CABLE WHICH ARE NOT GERMANE TO QUESTION OF WHETHER WE GO TO FAHD OR KING HUSSEIN FIRST.

5. GRATEFUL EARLY REACTION TO ABOVE APPROACH TO KING.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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